

March 22, 1960

Dr. Elizabeth Goldschmidt
Department of Zoology
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Israel

Dear Dr. Goldschmidt:

Thank you for your letter of March 9th.

For reasons allied to those given in your letter, I would deprecate the wisdom of the initial choice of Germany for the site of the next Genetics Congress. However, I believe that it would do more harm than good to stir up a new controversy at this time as would be needed to change the decision. I think there must come a time when we have to renew our relationships with our colleagues, minimizing a burden of national guilt which should not be applied indiscriminately to individuals. I realize how difficult it must be for you to consider returning to Germany but I hope you will try to do it with pride and with determination. I am not suggesting that we excuse the sins of the past but if the memory of them influences every decision in our world society, what hope do we have to educate one another and to secure ultimate peace?

If I may make a more constructive suggestion, it would be that you attempt to secure the support of your government to the end of holding the next meeting in Israel, a proposal that I am sure would elicit considerable enthusiasm among our colleagues in this country.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

CC: Dr. I. M. Lerner
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